well was being drilled in Pennsylvania.
During the Civil War both Union and Confederate forces traveled on the turnpike and frequented the California House and tavern. The original foundation stones, water well and barn are still located at the site. A small visitor's center and park have been built along the highway on this property.

RITCHIE MINES
This unique site is located approximately four miles north of McFarlan, West Virginia on the Parkersburg to Staunton Turnpike (National Scenic Byway), 10 miles east of California. It is the site of the famous asphalt mine first developed in 1858 and operated until it was flooded out in the late 1860s. Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House was paved with asphalt from this mine in 1860, and asphalt from here was shipped around the world. A small gauge railroad was built from here to Cairo, WV, in the late 1850s called the Cairo and Kanawha Railroad, or “Calico.”

PETROLEUM
Petroleum is probably one of the most significant sites in the district, for it is here that the nation’s first well was drilled along Oil Spring Run in early 1859 by coal oil refiner Dr. Robert Haulett of Wheeling. He purchased the property in January 1859 and began operations shortly thereafter. The B & O Railroad had been getting its lubricating oil from this site as early as 1857 from an oil spring located appropriately on Oil Spring Run. It is this site and the California site which give West Virginia the historical basis to challenge current history as to where the oil industry started. Petroleum was first started by the B & O Railroad in 1857 as an oil and water stop. The North Bend Rail To Trail passes through Petroleum. During the Civil War, Union troops (6th WV Infantry) built blockhouses here, as well as at each end of the tunnels on either side of the community.

VOLCANO
This site in the district was developed in the middle of the Civil War in 1863 because of the relatively safe environment north of the B & O Railroad. The developer was one W. C. Stiles. The Volcano oilfield and the town became a major boomtown. In 1879 most of the town was destroyed by fire. It probably reached a population of a thousand people. It was at this location and at Petroleum that the unique and efficient “continuous cable” pumping system came into being where one central engine pumped as many as 30 to 40 small wells. One such system operated into the 1970s.

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HENDERSON HALL PLANTATION
This beautiful Civil War period mansion was built just before the Civil War in 1859 by George W. Henderson. It was home to five generations of Hendersons. George Washington Henderson was active in the West Virginia statehood movement. While Henderson had slaves, he remained loyal to the Union. His son joined the Ohio militia. He represented Wood County at the First Wheeling Convention and then was elected to serve in the reorganized Virginia Legislature, which ran West Virginia from 1861 to 1863. He voted for the creation of the new state which was then approved by Congress and the President. The mansion reflects the Civil War period with many original artifacts on display from this period. The Hendersons also drilled one of the first wells in West Virginia across from Burning Springs in February, 1860. In addition, they operated one of the largest West Virginia oilfields in the 1890s.

FORT BOREMAN HISTORICAL PARK
Fort Boreman was built in 1863 as part of the fortification to protect Parkersburg from Confederate raiding parties and roaming area guerrillas. It was built because of the military strategic value of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which terminated in Parkersburg. It was home to several hundred artillery and infantry troops and at one time had five 12-pound artillery pieces. The major unit housed at Fort Boreman was Gatlin’s Battery. It was named after West Virginia’s first Governor, Arthur I. Boreman, a resident of Parkersburg.

Sponsored by the Oil & Gas Museum (304.485.5448). For additional area information call the Greater Parkersburg Convention & Visitors Bureau at 304.428.1150 or 800.752.4882 or visit GreaterParkersburg.com.
WES T VIRGINIA'S OIL, GAS & CIVIL WAR HERITAGE DISTRICT

This map showing the elements of West Virginia’s Oil, Gas and Civil War Heritage District, celebrates the birth of the nation’s oil industry as well as related Civil War activities. Both took place there in the late 1850s and 1860s.

The anchor and coordination point for the district is the Oil & Gas Museum in Parkersburg. Parkersburg, with a population in 1860 of just over 2,000, was the focal point and commercial center of the district. The other principal locations shown are, south to north: Elizabeth; Burning Springs; the Palestine Lock and Dam; Big Bend Rebel Civil War Site; Oil Rock; and the Oldest Producing Well in the World.

California; Ritchie Mines; Petroleum and Volcano.

These sites, along with Fort Borenman Historical Park, the Julia Ann Square Historic District and Henderson Hall Plantation, are all located around Parkersburg basically along the Burning Springs geologic anticline, projecting north out of Burning Springs, as well as on the railroad and highways running east and west through the district.

Both the existing and tumultuous oil, gas and Civil War activities that took place throughout the area are covered. Each of these sites will eventually have its own stand-alone park on historic land. At each site there will be descriptive stands, videos, shelters, replica forts (where necessary), and other artifacts of the early days, including pumping outfits.

Other major geographic elements are:

1. The Little Kanawha Byway (RT. 5 at Burning Springs), between Elizabeth and Grantsville. This has been dubbed “guerilla alley” because the road was used extensively by the rebel guerrillas for movement back and forth between Calhoun, Wirt, Jackson, Putnam and Wood Counties.

2. The Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike now designated a national scenic byway. This turnpike was first built in the late 1830s and became a major east/west artery for trade and commerce and migration. During the Civil War, control of the road, particularly in the eastern region, became a critical element in the control of northwestern Virginia.

3. The North Bend Rail Trail through Petroleum, which is the roadbed for the original Northwestern Virginia Railroad from Civil War times. This was part of the B & O network, between Baltimore and Parkersburg and became one of the north’s most valuable strategic assets. The Union posted 30,000 troops along this railroad for its protection and forts were built along it at vulnerable tunnels and bridges.

4. The Little Kanawha and Hughes Rivers flowing east to west across the district. This network of waterways was a major transportation route to bring supplies to the area and move oil and goods to Parkersburg.

The interconnecting roads north and south become “scenic backways” so that the district is linked throughout in both the oil and Civil War themes.

PARKERSBURG - OIL & GAS MUSEUM

The museum has an extensive collection of local Civil War and statehood memorabilia. The Oil & Gas Museum will be the visitor’s center for the district.

Parkersburg was where the oil came to refining and was the base from which the early exploration and finances for the industry emanated. It became the center of the fledgling industry and also became the political hub, from which many of the area politicians planned West Virginia statehood. It was also the major strategic and famous rail terminal, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Parkersburg was also the target and center of much of the Civil War activity in the surrounding counties. The Swann House Hotel was the center for both military and political activity, and its tavern hosted most of those taking a relief from duties.

JULIA-ANN SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Julia Ann Square Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is comprised of more than 175 homes. It is the largest of its kind in the state. Visitors often marvel at the array of Victorian architectural grandeur that dates from 1850 to 1910.

It is here that many of West Virginia’s most influential statehood politicians once resided, including the state’s third governor (William E. Stevenson) and first senator (Peter G. Van Winkle). The district was also home to the nation’s first oil pioneers, such as SD Kense, William Chancellor and Charles Shattuck. These men, and many others, were among the first to capitalize on opening the oilfields just outside Parkersburg in the 1860s, at Burning Springs and California. Their homes remain intact within the district today.

BURNING SPRINGS

Located seven miles east of Elizabeth on Route 5, designated the “little Kanawha Scenic Byway,” is the newly developed Burning Springs Park, at which is located the first producing oil well in the world. The park also celebrates being the first oilfield boomtown; once named Rathbone.

During the Civil War

General Jones conducted a famous raid across West Virginia, in May, 1863, and burned this oilfield and all the oil. In the words of an eyewitness at the time they ate all the food, drank all the whiskey and burned all the oil. It remains a productive oil and gas field to this day.

The current park consists of 30-acres, 2,000 feet of riverfront, a museum, operating antique oil derricks and many historic artifacts from local West Virginia oilfields. Fort Hill was located here and was the target for many Confederate attacks, including the famous Jones raid in 1863. Recent reports tell of one of the first land battles of the war here on June 19, 1861.

CAMP "BIG BEND"

This was a historic guerrilla camp for Confederates (such as the Moccasin Raiders). Confederate troops camped and gathered between marauding raids on the surrounding countryside, as well as along the B & O Railroad and other targets, such as Burning Springs.

PALESTINE LOCK AND DAM

This lock and dam, between Burning Springs and Elizabeth, was first built in 1871 by the recently "minted" oil barons, most of whom by this time resided in Parkersburg. Remains of the locks and dam are still prominent and are of interest to visitors. The site is at Route 35/2. The historic significance of the locks and dams is their age and the fact that they were the only locks and dams in the U.S. built by private investors.

OIL ROCK

Located off Route 53 on Standing Stone Creek, Oil Rock is the location of the first major new discovery in the area after the Civil War. The Orchard Well came in at a reported 1,000 barrels a day in 1866. It became an instant boomtown called Coldwater and the original well, owned by a private oil company, produces to this day.

CALIFORNIA

Located on the Parkersburg to Staunton Turnpike, a scenic byway (Route 47), 27 miles east from Parkersburg. The California House site is the location at which the early trenches were dug and from which oil was barreled and commercially distributed to Parkersburg and Marietta, Ohio, from as early as 1819. From here it was sold to the famous Samuel Ker, on August 3, 1839. Ker was one of the developers of the famous Coi Drake of Titusville. It was also here that a well was being commercially drilled for oil in the spring and summer of 1839 by Charles Shattuck and J. T. Johnston. This is the same site the famous Drake